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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/520,199

01/04/2005

Maarten Peter Bodlaender

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PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

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BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

HOANG, SON T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2109

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

02/28/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/520,199

Applicant(s)

BODLAENDER, MAARTEN PETER

Examiner

Son T. Hoang

Art Unit

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure does not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). A new abstract of the disclosure is required and must be presented on a separate sheet, apart from any other text.

Drawings

2. The drawings filed on **Jan 04, 2005** are objected because item *C2, C4, R5, V4, R2* of **Figure 3** are not mentioned anywhere in **Detailed Description** section of **Figure 3**. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. **Claim 11** is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2 has the misplaced character "a" in the sentence "*A method according to claim 3, wherein the source parameter represents at least one a of the following entities*". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

In addition, 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph states that a claim limitation expressed in means-plus-function language as described in **re Donaldson Co., 16 F.3d 1189, 1195, 29 USPQ2d 1845, 1850 (Fed. Cir. 1994) (in banc)**.

"shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure...described in the specification and equivalents thereof." "If one employs means plus function language in a claim, one must set forth in the specification an adequate disclosure showing what is meant by that language. If an applicant fails to set

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forth an adequate disclosure, the applicant has in effect failed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention as required by the second paragraph of section 112."

4. **Claims 1-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second Paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Furthermore, claim language lacks antecedent bases, and such lacking could lead to broad and/or inaccurate interpretation(s).

Examiner treated all claims as well as understood.

Regarding **claim 1**, the phrase "*the source parameter*" on line 4 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*at least one source parameter*" on line 2. Examiner suggests using "*said at least one source parameter*" instead. Furthermore, **claim 1** is a method claim and there is/are no step(s) mentioned along with it.

Regarding **claim 2**, the phrase "*the data object*" on line 2 is not clearly distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*data object*" in **claim 1** – line 1 or "the object" on line 2.

Regarding **claim 3**, the phrase "*the value of the source parameter*" on line 2 is not clarified whether or not it was the same as "*a value of the source parameter*" on **claim 1** - line 4. Examiner suggests using "*said value of the source parameter*" instead. The term "*the criterion*" on line 1 is not clarified whether or not it was the same as "*a criterion*" in **claim 1** - line 4. Examiner suggests using "*said at least one criterion*" instead.

Regarding **claim 4**, the phrase "*the source parameter*" on line 1 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*source parameter*" in **claim 1** - line 2 or "*the source parameter*" in **claim 1** - line 4. Examiner suggests using "*said source parameter*" instead. The term "*the criterion*" on line 2 is not clarified whether or not it was the same as "*a criterion*" in **claim 3** - line 1. Examiner suggests using "*said at least one criterion*" instead. The phrase "*the creation of the data object*" on line 3 is not clearly clarified whether or not it is the same as "*the creation of the data object*" that is previously mentioned on line 2. Examiner suggests using "*said creation*" instead.

Regarding **claim 5**, the phrase "*the criterion*" on line 1 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*criterion*" in **claim 1** - line 4. Examiner suggests using "*said at least one criterion*" instead. The phrase "*the value of the source parameter*" on lines 1-2 is not clarified whether or not it was the same as "*a value of the source parameter*" on **claim 1** - line 4. Examiner suggests using "*said value at least one source parameter*" instead.

Regarding **claim 6**, the phrase "*the database*" on line 1 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*a database*" in **claim 1** - line 1. The phrase "*similar data object*" on line 5 is not distinguished whether or not it is included in the group of "*similar further data objects*" on line 4. The phrase "*the similar data objects*" on lines 6, 7 are not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*similar further data objects*" on line 4. Examiner suggests using "*said similar data objects*" instead. The phrase "*the further source parameter*" on line 7 is not

distinguished whether or not it is the same as *"further source parameter"* on line 2. Examiner suggests using *"said further source parameter"* instead. The phrase *"the further similar data objects"* on line 7-8 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as *"further similar data object"* on line 4. Examiner suggests using *"said further source parameter"* instead. The phrase *"further classification parameters"* on lines 8, 9 are not distinguished whether or not it is the same as *"the further classification parameters"* on line 5-6. Examiner suggests using *"said further classification parameters"* instead. The phrases *"data object"* on line 9-10 are not distinguished whether or not it is the same as *"data object"* in **claim 1** - line 1. Examiner suggests using *"said data object"* instead. The phrase *"the further data objects"* on line 10 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as *"the similar further data objects"* on line 6.

Regarding **claim 7**, the term *"the similarity"* on line 2 is not clearly clarified whether or not it is the same as *"similarity of values"* in **claim 6** – line 7. Examiner suggests using *"said similarity"* instead.

Regarding **claim 8**, the phrase *"the source parameter"* on line 2 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as *"the further source parameter"* in **claim 6** – line 7. Examiner suggests using *"said further source parameter"* instead. The phrase *"the further database"* on line 3 is not clarified whether or not it is the same as *"the further database"* on line 2 and in **claim 7** – line 3. Examiner suggests using *"said further database"* instead.

Regarding **claim 9** and **claim 10**, the phrases "*similarity*", "*value of the further source parameter*" on lines 1-2 are not clarified whether or not they are the same as "*similarity*", "*value of the further source parameter*" in **claim 6** - line 7.

Regarding **claim 11**, the phrase "*the source parameter*" on line 1 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*a source parameter*" in **claim 1** – line 2. Examiner suggests using "*said source parameter*" instead. The terms "*data object*" on lines 3-7 are not clearly distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*data object*" in **claim 1** – line 1. Examiner suggests using "*said data object*" instead.

Regarding **claim 12**, the phrase "*the classification parameter*" on line 1 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*a classification parameter*" in **claim 1** – lines 2-3. Examiner suggests using "*said classification parameter*" instead.

Regarding **claim 13** and **claim 14**, the terms "*data objects*" on line 1 are not distinguished whether or not they are the same as "*data object*" in **claim 1** – line 1. Examiner suggests using "*said data object*" instead.

Regarding **claim 15**, the phrase "*the classification parameter*" on line 1 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*a classification parameter*" in **claim 1** – lines 2-3. Examiner suggests using "*said classification parameter*" instead. The term "*the data object*" on line 2 is not distinguished whether or not it

is the same as "*data object*" in **claim 1** – line 1. Examiner suggests using "*said data object*" instead.

Regarding **claim 16**, the phrase "*the criterion*" on line 1 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as "*criterion*" in **claim 1** – line 4. Examiner suggests using "*said criterion*" instead.

Regarding **claim 17**, the terms "*data object*" on lines 1, 3, 5 are not distinguished whether or not they are the same as the previously mentioned "*data object*" also on line 1. Examiner suggests using "*said data object*" instead. The term "*database*" on line 3 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as the previously mentioned "*database*" on line 1. Examiner suggests using "*said database*" instead. The term "*central processing unit*" on line 4 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as the previously mentioned "*central processing unit*" on lines 3-4. Examiner suggests using "*said central processing unit*" instead. The phrase "*the source parameter*" on line 5 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as the previously mentioned "*source parameter*" on line 2. Examiner suggests using "*said source parameter*" instead.

Regarding **claim 18**, the term "*the instructions*" on line 2 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as the previously mentioned "*instructions*" on line 1. Examiner suggests using "*said criterion*" instead. The term "*a computer*" on line 2 is not distinguished whether or not it is the same as the previously mentioned "*instructions*" also on line 2. Examiner suggests using "*said computer*" instead. Furthermore, the claim itself is rather broad and

indefinite when claiming "*a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions*"; see the next section for further explanations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. **Claims 14 and 18**, as well as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding **claim 14**, "*streams of audiovisual information*" is being recited; however, it appears that the streams would be reasonably interpreted by a person of ordinary skill in the art as signal, per se. Applicant's specification provides no explicit and deliberate definition of streams, and it appears that such would reasonably be interpreted as representative of signal. This subject matter falls within a non-statutory category of invention because it is not limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter.

Regarding **claim 18**, "*a computer-readable medium; comprising instructions*" is being recited; however, it appears that the computer-readable medium comprising instructions would be reasonably interpreted by a person of ordinary skill in the art as software, per se. Applicant's specification only provides **Figure 6** as illustration for the computer-readable medium with instructions stored on it; however, applicant's intent was for the computer-readable medium to be broader than the disclosed mediums with stored instructions, it appears that

such would reasonably be interpreted as representative of the software, which causes execution of comprised instructions to occur. This subject matter falls within a non-statutory category of invention because it is not limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter.

Note that software or signal does not fall within a statutory category since either one is clearly not a series of steps or acts to constitute a process, not a mechanical device or combination of mechanical devices to constitute a machine, not a tangible physical article or object which is some form of matter to be a product and constitute a manufacture, and not a composition of two or more substances to constitute a composition of matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate Paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this Section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. **Claims 1-18**, as well as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Hewagamage et al. (Augmented Album: Situation-dependent System for a Personal Digital Video/Image Collection)**.

Regarding **claim 1**, Hewagamage et al. clearly shows and discloses [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4] a method for classification of a data object in a

database (utilization of context to provide easy-to-use and easy-to-remember interface for the management and retrieval of digital videos / images) [lines 4-6], the data object having at least one source parameter (geographical location, time) [line 15] associated therewith, by associating a classification parameter (corresponding event) [lines 15-16] with the data object, wherein the classification parameter is associated with the data object when a value of the source parameter satisfies at least one criterion (pictures taken in same location and with insignificant time difference are grouped in same event) [Page 325, Section 4, Paragraphs 2 and 5]. Note that the criterion here is values of location and time of different pictures are equal.

Regarding **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the classification parameter (corresponding event) (Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, lines 15-16] is associated with the data object (digital videos / images) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 5-6] when the object is entered into the database (the data streams of camera are recorded in its internal memory and SIT transfers them while integrating the relevant situational information when the connection is established) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5, Lines 7-10].

Regarding **claim 3**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the criterion is that the value of the source parameter (geographical location, time) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Line 15] is within a predetermined range (Sensor Agent works as a reactive agent to

capture the location, time and possible event information from a personal scheduler) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5], e.g., time when pictures are taken are within range of time from user's personal scheduling application.

Regarding **claim 4**, and **as applied to claim 3 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the source parameter represents a geographical location of the creation of the data object [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 5-6], and the criterion is that the value of the source parameter is such that the creation of the data object has taken place in a predetermined region (Sensor Agent works as a reactive agent to capture the location, time and possible event information from a personal scheduler) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5], e.g., location when pictures are taken are within region from user's personal scheduling application.

Regarding **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the criterion is that the value of the source parameter (geographical location, time) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Line 15] equals a predetermined value (Sensor Agent works as a reactive agent to capture the location, time and possible event information from a personal scheduler) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5], e.g., time when pictures are taken are exact as time from user's personal scheduling application.

Regarding **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method [Pages 325-326, Section 4, Paragraphs 1-5] wherein the database comprises further data objects having at least one further source

parameter associated therewith and wherein the method comprises the following steps:

identifying similar further data objects having at least one further classification parameter associated with each similar data object, wherein the further classification parameters of the similar further data objects have equal values (when the user selects a particular event category, then icons appeared in the Map and Time Frame Components are restricted to be the ones in that category) [Paragraph 5, Lines 6-12], e.g., pictures in same event;

identifying similarity of values of the further source parameter of the further similar data objects having equal further classification parameters (when the user selects a particular event category, then icons appeared in the Map and Time Frame Components are restricted to be the ones in that category) [Paragraph 5, Lines 6-12], e.g., pictures with similar location and / or time in same event;

associating the further classification parameter with the data object when the data object is similar to the further data objects values (If several videos and/or images are taken at the same location having insignificant time difference, then they are considered to belong to the same context and a single icon is used to represent them) [Paragraph 2, Lines 5-9], e.g., same event category contains only pictures taken at similar location and / or time.

Regarding **claim 7**, and **as applied to claim 6 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method [Page 325, Section 4, Paragraphs 1-5] wherein the value of the further classification parameter and the similarity as criterion for associating a new data object with the further classification parameter with the value are stored in a further database [Page 326, Figure 4] (Events Component in the system is used to shows event categories grouping images/video clips as a way to shows contextual relevancy of data object taken at same location and/or time) [Paragraph 2, 5].

Regarding **claim 9**, and **as applied to claim 6 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses wherein the value of the further source parameter (geographical location, time) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Line 15] is an alphanumeric string (latitude and longitude information, timing information) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 2, Lines 8-9] and similarity is identified as the further source parameters having equal values (icons overlapped meaning pictures taken in the same or nearby location) [Page 325, Section 4, Paragraphs 2, Lines 9-11].

Regarding **claim 10**, and **as applied to claim 6 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the value of the further source parameter (geographical location, time) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Line 15] is a numerical value (latitude and longitude information, timing information) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 2, Lines 8-9] and the similarity is identified as the further source parameters having their values in a predetermined range (Sensor Agent works as a reactive agent to capture the location, time and possible event

information from a personal scheduler) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5], e.g., time when pictures are taken are within range of time from user's personal scheduling application.

Regarding **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 3 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the source parameter represents at least one of the following entities [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4]:

geographical location of the creation of the data object [line 15]

date of creation of the data object

time of creation of the data object [line 15]

name of the creator of the data object

data format of the data object

Regarding **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the classification parameter corresponds to an event (corresponding events) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 15-16].

Regarding **claim 13**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the data objects are still picture images (digital images) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 5-6].

Regarding **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the data objects are streams of audiovisual information (digital videos) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 5-6].

Regarding **claim 15**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the classification parameter (corresponding events) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 15-16] is associated with the data object (digital videos/images) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 5-6] by a user (interaction of user to obtain additional information about the corresponding events using a voice input system, or guessing corresponding events from a personal scheduler application) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5].

Regarding **claim 16**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method wherein the criterion is stored in a further database (Map Component, Time Frame Component, Events Component) [Page 325, Section 4].

Regarding **claim 17**, Hewagamage et al. clearly shows and discloses an apparatus for classification of a data object in a database, the data object (digital videos / images) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 5-6] having at least one source parameter (geographical location, time) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Line 15] associated therewith, the apparatus comprising a storage device for storing the database (data streams of camera are recorded in its internal memory) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5, Lines 7-8], means for receiving data objects (when the user takes pictures, and passes the information to Situational Agent) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5, Lines 3-4] and a central processing unit, wherein the central processing unit (Situational Agent is the

central agent of the system and also carries out the data management functions) [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5, Lines 5-7] is conceived to associate a classification parameter with the data object (digital videos / images) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 5-6] when the source parameter (geographical location, time) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Line 15] satisfies at least one criterion (pictures taken in same location and with insignificant time difference are grouped in same event) [Page 325, Section 4, Paragraphs 2 and 5]. Note that the criterion here is values of location and time of different pictures are equal.

Regarding **claim 18**, Hewagamage et al. clearly shows and discloses [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 6] a computer-readable medium (prototype system), comprising instructions, which are readable and executable by a computer (implementation using the Microsoft Agent software development kit, Microsoft Visual C++ and Amzi Prolog), wherein the instructions enable a computer to execute the method according to claim 1 (system enabled three software agents to capture the situational information to work as described in [Page 324, Section 3, Paragraph 5]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in Section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. **Claim 8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hewagamage et al.** in view of **Shiomi et al. (Pat. No. US 6,009,439)**.

Regarding **claim 8**, Hewagamage et al. clearly shows and discloses the claimed invention **as set forth in the rejection of claim 7 above**, in addition, Hewagamage et al. further discloses a method comprises three further databases (Map Component, Time Frame Component, Events Component) [Page 325, Section 4, Paragraph 1-5] to store further source parameters (geographical location, time) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Line 15] of the data object (digital videos / images) [Page 323, Section 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 5-6]. However, Hewagamage et al. does not specifically discloses the step of searching the further database to check whether the source parameter of the data object matches at least one criterion stored in a further database.

In the same field of endeavor, Shiomi et al. discloses [Description of The Preferred Embodiments, Embodiment 2, Column 24 - line 1 to Column 25 – line 15] a method to classify geographical data (source parameter) stored in retrieval data storing unit (a magnetic disk storing a plurality pieces of data and each piece is composed by area attribute, zip code attribute, and more) [Column 24, Lines 6-19]. Furthermore, Shiomi et al. clearly shows the step of searching the storing unit for geographical data for a character string (criterion is matching the search query) specified by controlling unit [Column 24, Lines 21-27]. If a string-

match occurs, the geographical data is not classified since the data construct only one group. [Column 24 - line 51 to Column 25 – line 15].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that further database will be checked to confirm whether the source parameter of the data object matches at least one criterion stored in the further database as taught by Shiomi et al. in the system of Hewagamage et al. as described for easy classification and retrieval of data object in a database.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Narayanaswami et al. (Pat No. US 6,504,571) teaches system and method for querying digital image archives using recorded parameters.

Kondo et al. (Pat No. US 5,519,865) teaches system and method for retrieving and classifying data stored in a database.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son T. Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 270-1752 and email is son.hoang@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds can be reached on (571) 272-4919. The fax phone


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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



S. H.



JAMES W. MYHRE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER